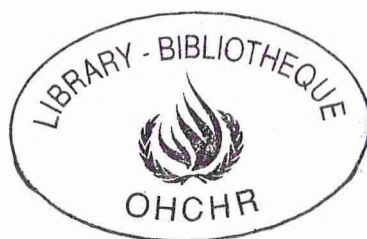


HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION

A Guide to Governments' Human Rights Commitments and Obligations

- The Human Rights Legal Framework
- Protection of Human Rights as First Responsibility of Governments
- An Enabling International Trade and Investment System
- Sustainable Development and Basic Needs
- Participation in Power and Decision-Making
- Corporate Accountability

People's Decade for Human Rights Education



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A Human Rights Perspective on International Trade Agreements

The World Trade Organisation and the global trading system it governs affect the lives of virtually every human being and the health of the planet. At its best, international trade can be a positive force for development and peace; at its worst, it can result in systematic human rights violations, environmental destruction and the entrenchment of global corporate control. This is why rules and enforcement mechanisms are needed to ensure that trade promotes sustainable development and a human rights culture. The WTO makes and enforces those rules but at present disregards human rights and most “non-trade” considerations in practice. This must change. The WTO is not a monolith. It is a membership organization composed of national governments with human rights obligations to their citizens and the international community. The United Nations has now mandated that human rights be mainstreamed throughout the UN system. The WTO is a specialized body of the United Nations incorporated under the provisions of the UN Charter. These are some of the compelling reasons why governments and trade officials must take human rights fully into consideration in the negotiation, review and implementation of trade agreements. Human rights are more than social goals – they are binding obligations under international human rights treaties and as such cannot be disregarded in any international negotiations.

This booklet is a resource tool for all stakeholders – policy makers, activists, government officials, local authorities, business, trade unions, educators, community organizations, etc. – to learn about and help realise governments’ obligations to human rights in the global economy. Trade policy making must be democratized if it is to contribute to the welfare and dignity of every woman, man, youth and child. Human rights must become the philosophy that guides such policymaking.

“... sustainable development ... combines economic development, social development and environmental protection, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and offers a means of achieving a world of greater stability and peace, built on ethical and spiritual vision. Democracy, respect for human rights, transparent, representative and accountable government ... in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation by civil society, are indispensable foundations for the realization of sustainable development...”

Habitat Agenda, para 4

“Everyone ... is entitled to realization ... of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which ... rights and freedoms ... can be fully realized....”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Arts. 22 and 28

“All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that they ... freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.... The States Parties ... recognize the rights of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family.... to ... health... to education....”

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Arts. 1, 11, 12, and 13

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Following their success in 1998 in urging the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to intervene in matters of international economic policy (including in particular the OECD negotiations on the Multilateral Agreement on Investment), members of the International NGO Committee on Human Rights in Trade and Investment lobbied the Sub-Commission strongly for the resolution below, with a view to influencing deliberations at the 3rd Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (November/December 1999). The resolution was championed by Joseph Oloka-Onyango of Uganda, the principal sponsor. Other independent expert members of the Sub-Commission who spoke in favour of the resolution were Françoise Hampson of the UK, Soli Sorabjee of India, and Miguel Alfonso Martinez of Cuba. The resolution was passed on August 26, 1999, with a resounding majority of 18 votes in favour, none against, and 4 abstentions.

**Resolution of 26 August, 1999, UN Commission on Human Rights,
Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.**

Trade liberalization and its impact on human rights (resolution 1999/30)

Reaffirming that, as declared in article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone is entitled to a social and economic order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration can be fully realized,

Stressing that the progressive realization of the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is a binding obligation upon States Parties,

Recalling the Declaration on the Right to Development, which recognizes that States have the primary responsibility for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development, and a duty to co-operate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other major human rights instruments contain obligations and goals which are fundamental to the development process and to economic policy,

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action confirmed that the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms is the first responsibility of Governments and that the human person is the central subject of development, and that the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action confirmed that social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling also its resolutions 1998/18 and 1998/12, and noting Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/59,

Noting that the negotiations on the draft Multilateral Agreement on Investment have ceased at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development but aware of proposals for provisions similar to those of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment to be incorporated in future agreements of the World Trade Organization and in the review of the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund,

Convinced of the necessity of fully integrating human rights principles in the processes of economic policy formulation,

Conscious of the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference scheduled to take place in Seattle, United States of America, in November/December 1999,

1.Requests all Governments and economic policy forums to take international human rights obligations and principles fully into account in international economic policy formulation;

2.Declares that sanctions and negative conditionalities which directly or indirectly affect trade are not appropriate ways of promoting the integration of human rights in international economic policy and practice;

3.Calls upon Governments and international economic policy forums (including the World Trade Organization) to undertake comprehensive and systematic studies, in consultation with United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms and relevant civil society organizations, of the human rights and social impacts of economic liberalization programmes, policies and laws;

4.Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to intensify efforts at dialogue with the World Trade Organization and its member States on the human rights dimensions of trade and investment liberalization, and to take steps to ensure that human rights principles and obligations are fully integrated in future negotiations in the World Trade Organization;

5.Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to include in its programme of work, especially in the preparation for the Tenth Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on “Development strategies in an increasingly interdependent world: applying the lessons of the past to make globalization an effective instrument for the development of all countries and all people”, a specific focus on ways and means to incorporate human rights principles in the process of international trade policy formulation;

6.Encourages the concerned civil society organizations to promote with their respective Governments the need for economic policy processes to fully incorporate and respect existing human rights obligations, and to continue to monitor and publicize the effects of economic policy that fail to take such obligations into account.

The Human Rights Legal Framework: Governments' Human Rights Obligations Related to International Trade and Investment

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Art. 1 -- Equality

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights...."

Art. 2 -- Non-Discrimination

"Everyone is entitled to all ... rights and freedoms ... without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status...."

Art. 7 -- Equal Protection

"All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law...."

Art. 8 -- National Remedy

"Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by ... competent national tribunals for acts violating ... fundamental rights...."

Art. 21 -- Participation

"(1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. (2) Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country...."

Art. 22 -- Social Security

"Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation ... of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for ... dignity...."

Art. 23 -- Work

"(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. (2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work. (3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection. (4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests."

Art. 25 -- Standard of Living

"(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood...."

Universal Declaration of Human Rights *(continued)*

Art. 26 -- Education

"(1) Everyone has the right to education...."

Art. 27 -- Scientific Benefits

"(1) Everyone has the right ... to share in scientific advancement and its benefits...."

Art. 28 -- International Order

"Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized."

Art. 30 -- No acts aimed at destruction of rights

"Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein."

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Art. 1 -- Self-determination

"(1) All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. (2) All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic cooperation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence. (3) The States Parties to the present Covenant ... shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right...."

Art. 2 -- Progressive Realization and Non-discrimination

"1. Each State Party ... undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant.... 2. The States Parties ... undertake to guarantee that ... rights ... will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status...."

Art. 5 -- No acts aimed at destruction of rights

"1. Nothing in the present Covenant may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights or freedoms recognized herein...."

Art. 6 -- Work

"1. The States Parties ... recognize the right to work, which includes the right of everyone to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts, and will take appropriate steps to safeguard this right. 2. The steps to be taken by a State Party ... to achieve the full realization of this right shall include technical and vocational guidance and training programmes, policies ... to achieve steady economic, social and cultural development and full and productive employment under conditions safeguarding fundamental political and economic freedoms...."

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (continued)

Article 7 -- Work

"The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work which ensure, in particular: (a) Remuneration which provides all workers, as a minimum, with: (i) Fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind, in particular women being guaranteed conditions of work not inferior to those enjoyed by men, with equal pay for equal work; (ii) A decent living for themselves and their families...; (b) Safe and healthy working conditions; (c) Equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted ..., subject to no considerations other than those of seniority and competence...."

Article 8 - Trade Unions

"1. The States Parties ... undertake to ensure: (a) The right of everyone to form trade unions and join the trade union of his choice ... for the promotion and protection of his economic and social interests...; (b) The right of trade unions to establish national federations or confederations and the right of the latter to form or join international trade-union organizations; (c) The right of trade unions to function freely subject to no limitations other than those prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society...; (d) The right to strike...."

Article 9 - Social Security

"The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance."

Article 11 - Standard of Living

"1. The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent...."

Article 12 -- Health

"1. The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health...."

Article 13 -- Education

"1. The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone to education...."

Article 15 -- Scientific Progress

"1. The States Parties ... recognize the right of everyone ... (b) To enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications...."

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Article 1 -- Self-determination

"1. All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development. 2. All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights *(continued)*

principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence. 3. The States Parties ... shall promote the realization of the right of self-determination, and shall respect that right, in conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.”

Article 2 -- Non-discrimination and Effective Remedy

“1. Each State Party ... undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.... 3. Each State Party ... undertakes: (a) To ensure that any person whose rights or freedoms ... are violated shall have an effective remedy.... (b) To ensure that any person claiming such a remedy shall have his right thereto determined by competent judicial, administrative or legislative authorities, or by any other competent authority provided for by the legal system of the State, and to develop the possibilities of judicial remedy; (c) To ensure that the competent authorities shall enforce such remedies when granted.”

Article 5 -- No acts aimed at destruction of rights

“1. Nothing in the present Covenant may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms recognized herein....”

Article 25 - Participation

“Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity ... (a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives; ... (c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.”

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Art. 2 -- State Party Obligations

“1. States Parties condemn racial discrimination and undertake to pursue by all appropriate means ... a policy of eliminating racial discrimination in all its forms ... and to this end: (a) Each State Party undertakes to engage in no act or practice of racial discrimination ... and to ensure that all public authorities and public institutions, national and local, shall act in conformity with this obligation; (b) Each State Party undertakes not to sponsor, defend or support racial discrimination by any persons or organizations; (c) Each State Party shall take effective measures to review governmental, national and local policies, and to amend, rescind or nullify any laws and regulations which have the effect of creating or perpetuating racial discrimination wherever it exists; (d) Each State Party shall prohibit and bring to an end ... racial discrimination by any persons, group or organization....”

Art. 5 -- Equality in Enjoyment of Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

“... States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the following rights:... c. Political rights, in particular the rights to participate in elections ..., to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service;...

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

(continued)

e. Economic, social and cultural rights, in particular: (1) The rights to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work, to protection against unemployment, to equal pay for equal work, to just and favourable remuneration; (2) The right to form and join trade unions; (3) The right to housing; (4) The right to public health, medical care, social security and social services; (5) The right to education and training....”

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Article 7 -- Participation, National Level

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: (a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies; (b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government; (c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.”

Article 8 -- Participation, International Level

“States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, on equal terms with men and without any discrimination, the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level and to participate in the work of international organizations.”

Article 14 -- Rural Women

“... 2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right: (a) To participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels; (b) To have access to adequate health care facilities...; (c) To benefit directly from social security programmes; (d) To obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal...; ... (g) To have access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities, appropriate technology and equal treatment in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes; (h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.”

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Art. 24 -- Health

“States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health....”

Art. 26 -- Social Security

“States Parties recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance....”

Convention on the Rights of the Child *(continued)*

Art. 27 -- Standard of Living

"1. States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.... 3. States Parties ... shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programs, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing...."

Art. 28 -- Education

"1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to education...."

ILO Convention No. 169, Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples

Art. 3 -- Non-discrimination

"Indigenous and tribal peoples shall enjoy the full measure of human rights ... without hindrance or discrimination...."

Art. 4 -- Special Measures to Safeguard ...

"Special measures shall be adopted as appropriate for safeguarding the persons, institutions, property, labour, cultures and environment of the peoples concerned...."

Art. 6 -- Participation

"1. ... governments shall: (a) consult the peoples concerned ... whenever consideration is being given to legislative or administrative measures which may affect them directly; (b) establish means by which these peoples can freely participate ... at all levels of decision-making in ... institutions and administrative and other bodies responsible for policies and programs which concern them...."

Art. 7 -- Development

"1. The peoples concerned shall have the right to decide their own priorities for the process of development as it affects their lives, beliefs, institutions and spiritual well-being and the lands they occupy or otherwise use, and to exercise control ... over their own economic, social and cultural development. In addition, they shall participate in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of plans and programs for national and regional development which may affect them directly. 2. The improvement of the conditions of life and work and levels of health and education of the peoples concerned, with their participation and cooperation, shall be a matter of priority in plans for the overall economic development of areas they inhabit.... 4. Governments shall take measures, in cooperation with the peoples concerned, to protect and preserve the environment of the territories they inhabit."

Art 13 -- Land

"1. ... governments shall respect the special importance for the cultures and spiritual values of the peoples concerned of their relationship with the lands ... which they occupy or otherwise use, and in particular the collective aspects of this relationship...."

ILO Convention No. 169, Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (continued)

Art. 14 -- Land

"1. The rights of ownership and possession of the peoples concerned over the lands which they traditionally occupy shall be recognised. In addition, measures shall be taken ... to safeguard the right of the peoples concerned to use lands not exclusively occupied by them, but to which they have traditionally had access for their subsistence and traditional activities...."

Art. 15 -- Natural Resources

"1. The rights of the peoples concerned to the natural resources pertaining to their lands shall be specially safeguarded. These rights include the right of these peoples to participate in the use, management and conservation of these resources...."

Protection of Human Rights as First Responsibility of Governments: Governments' Commitments

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Part I

1. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights, and international law. The universal nature of these rights and freedoms is beyond question....

Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments.

5. All human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated. The international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis....

6. The efforts of the United Nations system towards the universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, contribute to ... improved conditions for ... social and economic development....

8. Democracy, development and respect for human rights ... are interdependent and mutually reinforcing....

27. Every State should provide an effective framework of remedies to redress human rights grievances or violations. The administration of justice ... in full conformity with applicable standards contained in international human rights instruments [is] essential to the full and non-discriminatory realization of human rights and indispensable to the processes of democracy and sustainable development....

Copenhagen Declaration

25. We heads of State and Government are committed to a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development that is based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and cooperation, and full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of people....

26. To this end, we will create a framework for action to:

...
(k) Reaffirm the right of self-determination of all peoples, in particular of peoples under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, and the importance of the effective realization of this right, as enunciated, inter alia, in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights;

PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENTS

(l) Support progress and security for people and communities whereby every member of society is enabled to satisfy his or her basic human needs and to realize his or her personal dignity, safety and creativity;

Commitment 1

We commit ourselves to creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development.

To this end, at the national level, we will: ...

...

(f) Reaffirm, promote and strive to ensure the realization of the rights set out in relevant international instruments and declarations, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Declaration on the Right to Development, including those relating to education, food, shelter, employment, health and information, particularly in order to assist people living in poverty;

At the international level, we will:

...

(n) Reaffirm and promote all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, including the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights, and strive to ensure that they are respected, protected and observed.

Copenhagen Programme of Action

15. It is essential for social development that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development as an integral part of fundamental human rights, be promoted and protected through the following actions:

...

(e) Removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development;

Beijing Platform for Action

210. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments.

212. The promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms must be considered as a priority objective of the United Nations.... [T]he promotion and protection of all human rights is a legitimate concern of the international community. The international community must treat human rights globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis....

220. Every person should be entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy cultural, economic, political and social development. In many cases women and girls suffer discrimination in the allocation of economic and social resources. This directly violates their economic, social and cultural rights.

Habitat Agenda

23. ... it is the duty of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.

25. We ... are committed to a political, economic, environmental, ethical and spiritual vision of human settlements based on the principles of equality, solidarity, partnership, human dignity, respect and cooperation.... [V]iolations of human rights, alien and colonial domination, foreign occupation, economic imbalances, poverty ... are destructive to human settlements and should ... be denounced and discouraged by all States, which should cooperate to achieve the elimination of such practices and all unilateral measures impeding social and economic development....

26. We ... reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the full realization of the human rights set out in international instruments.... We reaffirm that all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political and social - are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated....

Rome World Food Summit Plan of Action

13. ... A peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment is the essential foundation which will enable States to give adequate priority to food security, poverty eradication and sustainable agriculture, fisheries, forestry and rural development. Promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development and the progressive realization of the right to adequate food for all and the full and equal participation of men and women are also indispensable to our goal of achieving sustainable food security for all.

An Enabling International Trade and Investment System: Governments' Commitments

Rio Declaration

Principle 12

States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation....

Agenda 21

2.2. Economic policies of individual countries and international economic relations both have great relevance to sustainable development....The development process will not gather momentum ... if the developing countries are weighted down by external indebtedness, if development finance is inadequate.... The policies and measures needed to create an international environment that is strongly supportive of national development efforts are thus vital....

2.3. The international economy should provide a supportive international climate for achieving environment and development goals by:

- ...
- (b) Making trade and environment mutually supportive;
 - (c) Providing adequate financial resources to developing countries and dealing with international debt;
 - (d) Encouraging macroeconomic policies conducive to environment and development.

2.9. ... Governments should ... strive to meet the following objectives:

- ...
- (d) To promote and support policies, domestic and international, that make economic growth and environmental protection mutually supportive.

2.22. Governments should encourage GATT, UNCTAD and other relevant international and regional economic institutions to ... the following propositions and principles:

- ...
- (c) In those cases when trade measures related to environment are used, ensure transparency and compatibility with international obligations;

- ...
- (j) Develop more precision, where necessary, and clarify the relationship between GATT provisions and some of the multilateral measures adopted in the environment area;

- (k) Ensure public input in the formation, negotiation and implementation of trade policies as a means of fostering increased transparency in the light of country-specific conditions;

2.33. Many indebted developing countries are undergoing structural adjustment programmes relating to debt rescheduling or new loans.... [I]n some cases they have resulted in adverse social and environmental effects, such as cuts in allocations for health care, education and environmental protection. It is important to ensure that structural adjustment programmes do not have negative impacts on the environment and social development so that such programmes can be more in line with the objectives of sustainable development.

3.10. The United Nations system, through its relevant organs, organizations and bodies, in cooperation with Member States and with appropriate international and non-governmental organizations, should make poverty alleviation a major priority and should:

...

(e) Examine the international economic framework, including resource flows and structural adjustment programmes, to ensure that social and environmental concerns are addressed, and ... conduct a review of the policies of international organizations, bodies and agencies, including financial institutions, to ensure the continued provision of basic services to the poor and needy;

8.15. The enactment and enforcement of laws and regulations (at the regional, national, state/provincial or local/municipal level) are ... essential for the implementation of most international agreements in the field of environment and development.... In developing their national priorities, countries should take account of their international obligations.

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Part I

10. ... States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development.... Lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires ... equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level.

12. The World Conference on Human Rights calls upon the international community to make all efforts to help alleviate the external debt burden of developing countries, in order to supplement the efforts of the Governments of such countries to attain the full realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of their people.

Cairo Programme of Action

3.12. All countries ... face increasing difficulties in improving the quality of life of their people in a sustainable manner. Many developing countries and countries with economies in transition face major development obstacles, among which are those related to ... the persistence of the debt-servicing problem, and the need for technologies and external assistance. The achievement of sustainable development and poverty eradication should be supported by macroeconomic policies designed to provide an appropriate international economic environment....

3.22. The international community should ... promote a supportive economic environment, particularly for developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their attempt to eradicate poverty and achieve sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development. In the context of the relevant international agreements and commitments, efforts should be made to support those countries ... by reducing the debt burden; by providing new and additional financial resources from all available funding sources..., including multilateral, bilateral and private sources...; by providing access to technologies; and by ensuring that structural adjustment programmes are so designed and implemented as to be responsive to social and environmental concerns.

Objectives

14.3 (b) To urge that the international community adopt favourable macroeconomic policies for promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development in developing countries;

...
(f) To urge that all population and development programmes ... adhere to basic human rights recognized by the international community.

Copenhagen Declaration

25. We heads of State and Government are committed to a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development that is based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and cooperation.... Accordingly, we will give the highest priority in national, regional and international policies and actions to the promotion of social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition, based on full participation....

26. To this end, we will create a framework for action to:

(a) Place people at the centre of development and direct our economies to meet human needs more effectively;

...
(c) Recognize that, while social development is a national responsibility, it cannot be successfully achieved without the collective commitment and efforts of the international community;

(d) Integrate economic, cultural and social policies so that they become mutually supportive, and acknowledge the interdependence of public and private spheres of activity;

(e) Recognize that the achievement of sustained social development requires sound, broadly based economic policies;

...
(n) Underline the importance of transparent and accountable governance and administration in all public and private national and international institutions;

Commitment 1

We commit ourselves to creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development.

To this end, at the national level, we will:

...
(e) Promote dynamic, open, free markets, while recognizing the need to intervene in markets ... to prevent or counteract market failure, promote stability and long-term investment, ensure fair competition and ethical conduct, and harmonize economic and social development, including the development and implementation of appropriate programmes that would entitle and enable people living in poverty and the disadvantaged, especially women, to participate fully and productively in the economy and society;

At the international level, we will:

...
(j) Promote and implement policies to create a supportive external economic environment, through ... cooperation in the formulation and implementation of macroeconomic policies, trade liberalization, mobilization ... of new and additional financial resources that are both adequate

and predictable and mobilized in a way that maximizes the availability of such resources for sustainable development...;

(k) Strive to ensure that international agreements relating to trade, investment, technology, debt and official development assistance are implemented in a manner that promotes social development;

Commitment 8

We commit ourselves to ensuring that when structural adjustment programmes are agreed to they include social development goals, in particular eradicating poverty, promoting full and productive employment, and enhancing social integration.

To this end, at the national level, we will:

(a) Promote basic social programmes and expenditures, in particular those affecting the poor and the vulnerable segments of society, and protect them from budget reductions, while increasing the quality and effectiveness of social expenditures;

(b) Review the impact of structural adjustment programmes on social development, including, where appropriate, by means of gender-sensitive social impact assessments and other relevant methods, in order to develop policies to reduce their negative effects and improve their positive impact;...

...

(d) Reinforce the social development components of all adjustment policies and programmes, including those resulting from the globalization of markets and rapid technological change, by designing policies to promote more equitable and enhanced access to income and resources;

At the international level, we will:

(f) Work to ensure that multilateral development banks and other donors complement adjustment lending with enhanced targeted social development investment lending;

(g) Strive to ensure that structural adjustment programmes respond to the economic and social conditions, concerns and needs of each country;

(h) Enlist the support and cooperation of regional and international organizations and the United Nations system, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, in the design, social management and assessment of structural adjustment policies, and in implementing social development goals and integrating them into their policies, programmes and operations.

Copenhagen Programme of Action

2. Actions are recommended to create, in a framework of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, a national and international environment favourable to social development, to eradicate poverty, to enhance productive employment and reduce unemployment, and to foster social integration....

6. ... social progress will not be realized simply through the free interaction of market forces. Public policies are necessary to correct market failures, to complement market mechanisms, ... and to create a national and international economic environment that promotes sustainable

growth on a global scale. Such growth should promote equity and social justice, tolerance, responsibility and involvement.

7. The ultimate goal of social development is to improve and enhance the quality of life of all people. It requires democratic institutions, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, increased and equal economic opportunities....

8. ... we will promote an enabling environment based on a people-centred approach to sustainable development, with ... an interaction of market forces conducive to ... social development;

9. The promotion of mutually reinforcing, broad-based, sustained economic growth and sustainable development on a global scale ... as a basis for social development, requires the following actions:

(a) Promoting the establishment of an open, equitable, cooperative and mutually beneficial international economic environment;

(b) Implementing sound and stable macroeconomic and sectoral policies that encourage broad-based, sustained economic growth and development that is sustainable and equitable, that generate jobs, and that are geared towards eradicating poverty and reducing social and economic inequalities and exclusion;

...

(e) Refraining from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that ... impedes the full realization of social and economic development and hinders the well-being of the population in the affected countries;

...

(j) Ensuring that, in accordance with Agenda 21..., broad-based, sustained economic growth and sustainable development respects the need to protect the environment and the interests of future generations;

10. To ensure that the benefits of global economic growth are equitably distributed among countries, the following actions are essential:

(a) Continuing efforts to alleviate the onerous debt and debt-service burdens ... of many developing countries...;

12. Making economic growth and the interaction of market forces more conducive to social development requires the following actions:

...

(e) Encouraging transnational and national corporations to operate in a framework of respect for the environment while complying with national laws and legislation, and in accordance with international agreements and conventions, and with proper consideration for the social and cultural impact of their activities;

23. Poverty has various causes, including structural ones.... The eradication of poverty cannot be accomplished through anti-poverty programmes alone but will require democratic participation and changes in economic structures in order to ensure access for all to resources, opportunities and public services, to undertake policies geared to more equitable distribution of wealth and income, to provide social protection for those who cannot support themselves....

27. Governments are urged to integrate goals and targets for combating poverty into overall economic and social policies and planning at the local, national and, where appropriate, regional

levels by:

(a) Analysing policies and programmes, including those relating to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment programmes, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy, with respect to their impact on poverty and inequality, assessing their impact on family well-being and conditions, as well as their gender implications, and adjusting them, as appropriate, to promote a more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services;

49. Minimizing the negative impact on jobs of measures for macroeconomic stability requires:

...

(e) Monitoring, analysing and disseminating information on the impact of trade and investment liberalization on the economy, especially on employment;

...

(g) Establishing appropriate social safety mechanisms to minimize the adverse effects of structural adjustment, stabilization or reform programmes on the workforce, especially the vulnerable, and for those who lose their jobs, creating conditions for their re-entry through ... continuing education and retraining.

98. The implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the Summit will involve many entities of the United Nations system. In order to ensure coherence in this effort, the General Assembly should give consideration to:

(a) Promoting and strengthening the coordination of United Nations system activities, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization at the global, regional and national levels in the area of economic and social development programmes...;

(b) Inviting the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Programme of Action, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system.

Beijing Platform for Action

13. ... As a result of the debt burden and other economic difficulties, many developing countries have undertaken structural adjustment policies. Moreover, there are structural adjustment programmes that have been poorly designed and implemented, with resulting detrimental effects on social development....

14. In this context, the social dimension of development should be emphasized. Accelerated economic growth, although necessary for social development, does not by itself improve the quality of life of the population. In some cases, conditions can arise which can aggravate social inequality and marginalization. Hence, it is indispensable to search for new alternatives that ensure that all members of society benefit from economic growth based on a holistic approach to all aspects of development: growth, equality between women and men, social justice, conservation and protection of the environment, sustainability, solidarity, participation, peace and respect for human rights.

16. ... The rapid process of change and adjustment in all sectors has also led to increased unemployment and underemployment, with particular impact on women. In many cases, structural adjustment programmes have not been designed to minimize their negative effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups or on women, nor have they been designed to assure

positive effects on those groups by preventing their marginalization in economic and social activities....

18. Recent international economic developments have had in many cases a disproportionate impact on women and children, the majority of whom live in developing countries. For those States that have carried a large burden of foreign debt, structural adjustment programmes and measures, though beneficial in the long term, have led to a reduction in social expenditures, thereby adversely affecting women.... This is exacerbated when responsibilities for basic social services have shifted from Governments to women.

Strategic objective A.1.

Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty

Actions to be taken

58. By Governments:

(a) Review and modify, with the full and equal participation of women, macroeconomic and social policies with a view to achieving the objectives of the Platform for Action;

(b) Analyse, from a gender perspective, policies and programmes - including those related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy - with respect to their impact on poverty, on inequality and particularly on women; assess their impact on family well-being and conditions, and adjust them, as appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services;

(c) Pursue and implement sound and stable macroeconomic and sectoral policies that are designed and monitored with the full and equal participation of women, encourage broad-based sustained economic growth, address the structural causes of poverty and are geared towards eradicating poverty and reducing gender-based inequality within the overall framework of achieving people-centred sustainable development;

...

(g) Provide adequate safety nets and strengthen State-based and community-based support systems, as an integral part of social policy, in order to enable women living in poverty to withstand adverse economic environments and preserve their livelihood, assets and revenues in times of crisis;

59. By multilateral financial and development institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and regional development institutions, and through bilateral development cooperation:

(a) In accordance with the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development, seek to mobilize new and additional financial resources that are both adequate and predictable....

...

(c) Find effective development-oriented and durable solutions to external debt problems in order to help them to finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women ... and develop techniques of debt conversion applied to social development programmes and projects in conformity with the priorities of the Platform for

Action;

(e) Ensure that structural adjustment programmes are designed to minimize their negative effects on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and communities and to assure their positive effects on such groups and communities by preventing their marginalization in economic and social activities and devising measures to ensure that they gain access to and control over economic resources and economic and social activities; take actions to reduce inequality and economic disparity;

(f) Review the impact of structural adjustment programmes on social development ..., in order to develop policies to reduce their negative effects and improve their positive impact, ensuring that women do not bear a disproportionate burden of transition costs; complement adjustment lending with enhanced, targeted social development lending;

(g) Create an enabling environment that allows women to build and maintain sustainable livelihoods.

Strategic objective F.1.

Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment and appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources

Actions to be taken

165. By Governments:

(k) Seek to ensure that ... policies related to international and regional trade agreements do not adversely impact women's new and traditional economic activities;

(l) Ensure that all corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with national laws and codes, social security regulations, applicable international agreements, instruments and conventions, including those related to the environment, and other relevant laws;

(m) Establish mechanisms and other forums to enable women entrepreneurs and women workers to contribute to the formulation of policies and programmes being developed by economic ministries and financial institutions;

(p) Use gender-impact analysis in the development of macro- and micro-economic and social policies in order to monitor such impact and restructure policies in cases where harmful impact occurs;

Strategic objective F.4.

Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks

Actions to be taken

175. By Governments:

(b) Integrate a gender perspective into all economic restructuring and structural adjustment policies and design programmes for women who are affected by economic restructuring, including structural adjustment programmes, and for women who work in the informal sector;

Strategic objective K.3.

Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess

the impact of development and environmental policies on women

Actions to be taken

258. By Governments, regional and international organizations and non-governmental organizations...:

...

(b) Develop gender-sensitive databases, information and monitoring systems and participatory action-oriented research, methodologies and policy analyses ... on the following: ...

(iv) Measures to develop and include environmental, economic, cultural, social and gender-sensitive analyses as an essential step in the development and monitoring of programmes and policies;...

(c) Ensure the full compliance with relevant international obligations....

342. In implementing the Platform for Action, international financial institutions are encouraged to review and revise policies, procedures ... to ensure that investments and programmes benefit women and thus contribute to sustainable development....

343. The General Assembly should give consideration to inviting the World Trade Organization to consider how it might contribute to the implementation of the Platform for Action, including activities in cooperation with the United Nations system.

Habitat Agenda

19. Human settlements problems are of a multidimensional nature. It is recognized that... sustainable human settlements development [is] not isolated from the broader social and economic development of countries and that they cannot be set apart from the need for favourable national and international frameworks for economic development, social development and environmental protection, which are indispensable and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development.

40. We ... commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Ensuring consistency and coordination of macroeconomic and shelter policies and strategies as a social priority within the framework of national development programmes ... in order to support resource mobilization, employment generation, poverty eradication and social integration;

43. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

...

(b) Creating an enabling international and domestic environment for economic development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development...;

...

(m) Encouraging dialogue among public, private and non-governmental interested parties to develop an expanded concept of the "balance-sheet", which recognizes that the economic, environmental, social and civic consequences for directly and indirectly affected parties, including future generations, should be taken into account in making decisions on the allocation of resources;

...

(w) Developing and evaluating policies and programmes to reduce the undesired adverse effects and improve the positive impact of structural adjustment and economic

transition on sustainable human settlements development, especially on those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and women, inter alia, through reviewing the impact of structural adjustment on social development by means of gender-sensitive social impact assessments and other relevant methods;

Rome Declaration on World Food Security

We agree to pursue food trade and overall trade policies that will encourage our producers and consumers to utilize available resources in an economically sound and sustainable manner....

...

[W]e will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system;

World Food Summit Plan of Action

Commitment 1

We will ensure an enabling political, social, and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for durable peace....

15. Objective 1.2:

To ensure stable economic conditions and implement development strategies which encourage the full potential of private and public, individual and collective initiatives for sustainable, equitable, economic and social development which also integrate population and environmental concerns.

To this end, governments, ... in partnership with all actors of civil society, will:

(a) Promote policies in order to foster a national and international environment that is more conducive to sustainable, equitable economic and social development;

Commitment 4

We will strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented world trade system.

37. ... Appropriate domestic economic and social policies will better ensure that all, including the poor, will benefit from economic growth. Appropriate trade policies promote the objectives of sustainable growth and food security....

39. Objective 4.1:

To meet the challenges of and utilize the opportunities arising from the international trade framework established in recent global and regional trade negotiations.

To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, will...:

...

(b) Seek to ensure that national policies related to international and regional trade agreements do not have an adverse impact on women's new and traditional economic activities

towards food security.

The international community, in cooperation with governments and civil society, will, as appropriate:

...

(g) Endeavour to ensure mutual supportiveness of trade and environment policies in support of sustainable food security, looking to the WTO to address the relationship between WTO provisions and trade measures for environment purposes...;

Commitment 6

We will promote optimal allocation and use of public and private investments to foster human resources, sustainable food, agriculture, fisheries and forestry systems, and rural development....

52. Objective 6.1:

To create the policy framework and conditions so that optimal public and private investments are encouraged in equitable and sustainable development of the food systems, rural development and human resources....

To this end, governments, in cooperation with all actors of civil society, international and private financing institutions, and technical assistance agencies will

(a) Promote policies and measures to enhance the flow and effectiveness of investments for food security;

53. Objective 6.2:

To endeavour to mobilize ... technical and financial resources from all sources, including debt relief, in order to raise investment in activities related to sustainable agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food production in developing countries....

To this end, governments, in cooperation with the international community and all actors of civil society, as well as international and private financing institutions will...:

(c) Support investments that contribute to sustainable food security and further conservation and sustainable utilization and management of natural resources...;

...

(k) Give priority to people-centred investments in education, health and nutrition in order to promote broad-based economic growth and sustainable food security;

...

(m) Intensify the search for practical and effective solutions to debt problems of developing countries and support the recent initiatives of international financial institutions ... to reduce the total external debt burden of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries;

Commitment 7

We will implement, monitor, and follow-up this Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.

56. Governments have the primary responsibility for creating an economic and political environment that assures the food security of their citizens, involving ... all elements of civil

society. The international community, and the UN system, including FAO, as well as other agencies and bodies ..., have important contributions to offer to the goal of food security for all.

59. ... In cooperation among themselves, governments and international financial institutions will:

...

(n) Make every effort to ensure that goals and programmes aimed at food security and poverty eradication are safeguarded in difficult times of economic transition, budget austerity and structural adjustment...

Sustainable Development, Basic Needs, and the Environment: Governments' Commitments

Rio Declaration

Principle 1

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

Principle 3

The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

Principle 4

In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.

Principle 5

All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.

Principle 15

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States.... Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Principle 17

Environmental impact assessment ... shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment....

Agenda 21

1.1. Humanity stands at a defining moment in history. We are confronted with a perpetuation of disparities between and within nations, a worsening of poverty, hunger, ill health and illiteracy, and the continuing deterioration of the ecosystems on which we depend for our well-being. However, integration of environment and development concerns and greater attention to them will lead to the fulfilment of basic needs, improved living standards for all, better protected and managed ecosystems and a safer, more prosperous future. No nation can achieve this on its own; but together we can - in a global partnership for sustainable development.

3.8. Governments, with the assistance of and in cooperation with appropriate international, non-governmental and local community organizations, should establish measures that will directly or indirectly:

- (a) Generate remunerative employment and productive occupational opportunities ...;
- (b) With international support, ... develop adequate infrastructure, marketing systems, technology systems, credit systems and ... the human resources needed ... to achieve a

widening of options for resource-poor people. High priority should be given to basic education and professional training;

(e) Set up an effective primary health care and maternal health care system accessible to all;

(h) Establish new community-based mechanisms and strengthen existing mechanisms to enable communities to gain sustained access to resources needed by the poor to overcome their poverty;

(p) Provide the poor with access to fresh water and sanitation;

(q) Provide the poor with access to primary education.

8.7. Governments, in cooperation, where appropriate, with international organizations, should adopt a national strategy for sustainable development.... This strategy should build upon and harmonize the various sectoral economic, social and environmental policies ... that are operating in the country.... Its goals should be to ensure socially responsible economic development while protecting the resource base and the environment for the benefit of future generations....

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Part I

10. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights.

As stated in the Declaration on the Right to Development, the human person is the central subject of development.

While development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights.

States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development. The international community should promote an effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development.

Lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level.

11. The right to development should be fulfilled so as to meet equitably the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations....

14. The existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights; its immediate alleviation and eventual elimination must remain a high priority for the international community.

24. Great importance must be given to the promotion and protection of the human rights of

persons belonging to groups which have been rendered vulnerable.... States have an obligation to create and maintain adequate measures at the national level, in particular in the fields of education, health and social support, for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons in vulnerable sectors of their populations and to ensure the participation of those among them who are interested in finding a solution to their own problems.

25. The World Conference on Human Rights affirms that extreme poverty and social exclusion constitute a violation of human dignity and that urgent steps are necessary to achieve better knowledge of extreme poverty and its causes, including those related to the problem of development, in order to promote the human rights of the poorest, and to put an end to extreme poverty and social exclusion and to promote the enjoyment of the fruits of social progress. It is essential for States to foster participation by the poorest people in the decision-making process by the community in which they live, the promotion of human rights and efforts to combat extreme poverty.

Cairo Programme of Action

Principle 2

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature. People... have the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing, housing, water and sanitation.

Principle 3

The right to development is a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights, and the human person is the central subject of development. While development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights. The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet the population, development and environment needs of present and future generations.

Principle 6

Sustainable development as a means to ensure human well-being, equitably shared by all people today and in the future, requires that the interrelationships between population, resources, the environment and development should be fully recognized, properly managed and brought into harmonious, dynamic balance....

Principle 15

Sustained economic growth, in the context of sustainable development, and social progress require that growth be broadly based, offering equal opportunities to all people....

Objectives

3.4. The objectives are to fully integrate population concerns into:

(a) Development strategies, planning, decision-making and resource allocation at all levels and in all regions, with the goal of meeting the needs, and improving the quality of life, of present and future generations;

(b) All aspects of development planning in order to promote social justice and to eradicate poverty through sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development.

Actions

3.6. Governments, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and other concerned parties should undertake timely and periodic reviews of their development strategies, with the aim of assessing progress towards integrating population into development and environment programmes....

Copenhagen Declaration

6. We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. We also recognize that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice.

8. We acknowledge that people are at the centre of our concerns for sustainable development and that they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with the environment.

25. We heads of State and Government are committed to a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development that is based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and cooperation, and full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of people. Accordingly, we will give the highest priority in national, regional and international policies and actions to the promotion of social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition, based on full participation by all.

26. To this end, we will create a framework for action to:

(a) Place people at the centre of development and direct our economies to meet human needs more effectively;

(b) Fulfil our responsibility for present and future generations by ensuring equity among generations and protecting the integrity and sustainable use of our environment;

...
(d) Integrate economic, cultural and social policies so that they become mutually supportive, and acknowledge the interdependence of public and private spheres of activity;

(e) Recognize that the achievement of sustained social development requires sound, broadly based economic policies;

...
(l) Support progress and security for people and communities whereby every member of society is enabled to satisfy his or her basic human needs and to realize his or her personal dignity, safety and creativity;

Commitment 1

We commit ourselves to creating an economic, political, social, cultural and legal environment that will enable people to achieve social development.

Commitment 2

We commit ourselves to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind.

To this end, at the national level, in partnership with all actors of civil society and in the context of a multidimensional and integrated approach, we will:

...

(c) Ensure that people living in poverty have access to productive resources, including credit, land, education and training, technology, knowledge and information, as well as to public services, and participate in decision-making on a policy and regulatory environment that would enable them to benefit from expanding employment and economic opportunities;

Commitment 6

We commit ourselves to promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equitable access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and the access of all to primary health care, making particular efforts to rectify inequalities relating to social conditions and without distinction as to race, national origin, gender, age or disability;... preserving the essential bases of people-centred sustainable development; and contributing to the full development of human resources and to social development. The purpose of these activities is to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration.

Copenhagen Programme of Action

2. Actions are recommended to create, in a framework of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, a national and international environment favourable to social development, to eradicate poverty, to enhance productive employment and reduce unemployment, and to foster social integration.... Enhancing positive interaction between environmental, economic and social policies is ... essential for success in the longer term. The well-being of people also requires the exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to the provision of good education, health care and other basic public services....

8. Against this background, we will promote an enabling environment based on a people-centred approach to sustainable development, with the following features:

...

- Equitable and non-discriminatory distribution of the benefits of growth among social groups and countries and expanded access to productive resources for people living in poverty;

...

- Protection and conservation of the natural environment in the context of people-centred sustainable development.

35. Governments, in partnership with all other development actors, in particular with people living in poverty and their organizations, should cooperate to meet the basic human needs of all, including people living in poverty and vulnerable groups, by:

(a) Ensuring universal access to basic social services, with particular efforts to facilitate access by people living in poverty and vulnerable groups;

42. Productive work and employment are central elements of development as well as decisive elements of human identity. Sustained economic growth and sustainable development as well

as the expansion of productive employment should go hand in hand. Full and adequately and appropriately remunerated employment is an effective method of combating poverty and promoting social integration. The goal of full employment requires that the State, the social partners and all the other parts of civil society at all levels cooperate to create conditions that enable everyone to participate in and benefit from productive work. In a world of increasing globalization and interdependence among countries, national efforts need to be buttressed by international cooperation.

Beijing Declaration

We are determined to:

27. Promote people-centred sustainable development, including sustained economic growth, through the provision of basic education, lifelong education, literacy and training, and primary health care for girls and women;

35. Ensure women's equal access to economic resources including land, credit, science and technology, vocational training, information, communication and markets, as a means to further the advancement and empowerment of women and girls....

36. ...We are deeply convinced that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development, which is the framework for our efforts to achieve a higher quality of life for all people. Equitable social development that recognizes empowering the poor, particularly women living in poverty, to utilize environmental resources sustainably is a necessary foundation for sustainable development. We also recognize that broad-based and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development is necessary to sustain social development and social justice....

Istanbul Declaration

3. We reaffirm our commitment to better standards of living in larger freedom for all humankind....

10. In order to sustain our global environment and improve the quality of living in our human settlements, we commit ourselves to sustainable patterns of production, consumption, transportation and settlements development; pollution prevention; respect for the carrying capacity of ecosystems; and the preservation of opportunities for future generations. In this connection, we shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem.... We ... recognize that we must take these actions in a manner consistent with the precautionary principle approach, which shall be widely applied....

42. We commit ourselves to the goal of sustainable human settlements ... by developing societies that will make efficient use of resources within the carrying capacity of ecosystems and take into account the precautionary principle approach, and by providing all people, in particular those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, with equal opportunities for a healthy, safe and productive life in harmony with ..., and which ensures economic and social development and environmental protection....

Habitat Agenda

1. ... There is a sense of great opportunity and hope that a new world can be built, in which economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development can be realized through solidarity and cooperation within and between countries and through effective partnerships at all levels. ...

4. ... sustainable development of human settlements combines economic development, social development and environmental protection, with full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, and offers a means of achieving a world of greater stability and peace, built on ethical and spiritual vision. Democracy, respect for human rights, transparent, representative and accountable government and administration in all sectors of society, as well as effective participation by civil society, are indispensable foundations for the realization of sustainable development. The lack of development and the existence of widespread absolute poverty can inhibit the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and undermine fragile democracy and popular participation. Neither of them, however, can be invoked to justify violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

11. More people than ever are living in absolute poverty and without adequate shelter.... Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing, housing, water and sanitation, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.

27. Equitable human settlements are those in which all people, without discrimination of any kind ... have equal access to housing, infrastructure, health services, adequate food and water, education and open spaces. In addition, such human settlements provide equal opportunity for a productive and freely chosen livelihood; equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance, the ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies; ... equal opportunity for participation in public decision-making; equal rights and obligations with regard to the conservation and use of ... resources; and equal access to mechanisms to ensure that rights are not violated....

28. The eradication of poverty is essential for sustainable human settlements. The principle of poverty eradication is based on ... the objective of meeting the basic needs of all people, especially those living in poverty and disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, particularly in the developing countries where poverty is acute, as well as the objective of enabling all women and men to attain secure and sustainable livelihoods through freely chosen and productive employment and work.

29. Sustainable development is essential for human settlements development, and gives full consideration to the needs and necessities of achieving economic growth, social development and environmental protection.... Sustainable human settlements development ensures economic development, employment opportunities and social progress, in harmony with the environment. It incorporates ... the principles of the precautionary approach, pollution prevention, respect for the carrying capacity of ecosystems, and preservation of opportunities for future generations....

36. Human health and quality of life are at the centre of the effort to develop sustainable human settlements. We ... commit ourselves to promoting and attaining the goals of universal and equal access to quality education, the highest attainable standard of physical, mental and environmental health, and the equal access of all to primary health care, making particular

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BASIC NEEDS

efforts to rectify inequalities relating to social and economic conditions ... without distinction.... Good health throughout the life-span of every man and woman, good health for every child, and quality education for all are fundamental to ensuring that people ... are able to develop their full capacities in health and dignity and to participate fully in the social, economic and political processes of human settlements.... Sustainable human settlements depend on the interactive development of policies and concrete actions to provide access to food and nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation, and universal access to the widest range of primary health-care services...; to create safe places to work and live; and to protect the environment.

39. We reaffirm our commitment to the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.... We commit ourselves to the goal of improving living and working conditions on an equitable and sustainable basis, so that everyone will have adequate shelter that is healthy, safe, secure, accessible and affordable and that includes basic services....

40. We ... commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(l) Promoting shelter and supporting basic services and facilities for education and health for the homeless, displaced persons, indigenous people, women and children ... and people belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups...;

(m) Protecting ... the legal traditional rights of indigenous people to land and other resources...;

43. We ... commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(f) Implementing the social and development goals already agreed to by the international community in the areas of basic education, primary health care and gender equality;

45. We ... commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(d) Supporting progress and security for people and communities, whereby every member of society is enabled to satisfy his or her basic human needs and to realize his or her personal dignity, safety, creativity and life aspirations;

Rome Declaration on World Food Security

We, the Heads of State and Government, ... reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger....

Within the global framework, governments should ... cooperate actively with one another and with United Nations organizations, financial institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and public and private sectors, on programmes directed toward the achievement of food security for all.

World Food Summit Plan of Action

We will ensure an enabling political, social, and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty and for durable peace ... which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all.

15. Objective 1.2:

To ... implement development strategies which encourage the full potential of private and public, individual and collective initiatives for sustainable, equitable, economic and social development which also integrate population and environmental concerns.

17. Objective 1.4:

To ... provide equal opportunities for all, at all levels, in social, economic and political life, particularly in respect of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and persons.

To this end, governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society, will, as appropriate:

(a) Support investment in human resource development such as health, education, literacy and other skills training, which are essential to sustainable development...;

53. Objective 6.2:

To endeavour to mobilize, and optimize the use of, technical and financial resources from all sources, including debt relief, in order to raise investment ... needed to contribute to food security.

To this end, governments, in cooperation with the international community and all actors of civil society, as well as international and private financing institutions will, as appropriate:

(k) Give priority to people-centred investments in education, health and nutrition in order to promote broad-based economic growth and sustainable food security;

61. Objective 7.4:

To clarify the content of the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, as stated in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other relevant international and regional instruments, and to give particular attention to implementation and full and progressive realization of this right as a means of achieving food security for all.

Participation in Power and Decision-Making: Governments' Commitments to Civil Society, Women, Minorities, and Indigenous Peoples

Rio Declaration

Principle 10

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

Principle 20

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is ... essential to achieve sustainable development.

Principle 22

Indigenous people and their communities and other local communities have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.

Agenda 21

1.3. Agenda 21 reflects a global consensus and political commitment at the highest level on development and environment cooperation....The broadest public participation and the active involvement of the non-governmental organizations and other groups should also be encouraged.

2.22. Governments should encourage GATT, UNCTAD and other relevant international and regional economic institutions to examine, in accordance with their respective mandates and competences, the following propositions and principles:

...

(k) Ensure public input in the formation, negotiation and implementation of trade policies as a means of fostering increased transparency in the light of country-specific conditions;

3.8. Governments, with the assistance of and in cooperation with appropriate international, non-governmental and local community organizations, should establish measures that will directly or indirectly:

...

(l) Implement mechanisms for popular participation - particularly by poor people, especially women - in local community groups, to promote sustainable development;

8.2. Prevailing systems for decision-making in many countries tend to separate economic, social and environmental factors at the policy, planning and management levels.... An

PARTICIPATION IN POWER AND DECISION-MAKING

adjustment or even a fundamental reshaping of decision-making ... may be necessary if environment and development is to be put at the centre of economic and political decision-making.... The responsibility for bringing about changes lies with Governments in partnership with the private sector and local authorities, and in collaboration with national, regional and international organizations, including in particular UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank....

Objectives

8.3. The ... objective is to improve or restructure the decision-making process so that consideration of socio-economic and environmental issues is fully integrated and a broader range of public participation assured.... [T]he following objectives are proposed:

...

(b) To strengthen institutional structures to allow the full integration of environmental and developmental issues, at all levels of decision-making;

(c) To develop or improve mechanisms to facilitate the involvement of concerned individuals, groups and organizations in decision-making at all levels;

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Part I

18. The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The full and equal participation of women in political, civil, economic, social and cultural life, at the national, regional and international levels, and the eradication of all forms of discrimination on grounds of sex are priority objectives of the international community.

19: ... The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirms the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law....

20. The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the inherent dignity and the unique contribution of indigenous people to ... society and strongly reaffirms the commitment of the international community to their economic, social and cultural well-being and their enjoyment of the fruits of sustainable development. States should ensure the full and free participation of indigenous people in all aspects of society, in particular in matters of concern to them....

38. The World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the important role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion of all human rights.... [T]he World Conference on Human Rights emphasizes the importance of continued dialogue and cooperation between Governments and nongovernmental organizations....

Copenhagen Declaration

25. We heads of State and Government are committed to a political, economic, ethical and spiritual vision for social development that is based on human dignity, human rights, equality, respect, peace, democracy, mutual responsibility and cooperation, and full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of people. Accordingly, we will

give the highest priority in national, regional and international policies and actions to the promotion of social progress, justice and the betterment of the human condition, based on full participation by all.

26. To this end, we will create a framework for action to:

- ...
- (n) Underline the importance of transparent and accountable governance and administration in all public and private national and international institutions;
 - (o) Recognize that empowering people, particularly women, to strengthen their own capacities is a main objective of development and its principal resource. Empowerment requires the full participation of people in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of decisions determining the functioning and well-being of our societies;

Commitment 2

We commit ourselves to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international cooperation, as an ethical, social, political and economic imperative of humankind.

To this end, at the national level, in partnership with all actors of civil society and in the context of a multidimensional and integrated approach, we will:

- ...
- (c) Ensure that people living in poverty ... participate in decision-making on a policy and regulatory environment that would enable them to benefit from expanding employment and economic opportunities;

Copenhagen Programme of Action

7. ... All members of society should have the opportunity and be able to exercise the right and responsibility to take an active part in the affairs of the community in which they live. Gender equality and equity and the full participation of women in all economic, social and political activities are essential....

8. ... we will promote an enabling environment based on a people-centred approach to sustainable development, with the following features:

- Broad-based participation and involvement of civil society in the formulation and implementation of decisions determining the functioning and well-being of our societies;

24. ... People living in poverty and vulnerable groups must be empowered through organization and participation in all aspects of political, economic and social life, in particular in the planning and implementation of policies that affect them, thus enabling them to become genuine partners in development.

70. There is ... an urgent need for:

- Transparent and accountable public institutions that are accessible to people on an equal basis and are responsive to their needs;
- Opportunities for all to participate in all spheres of public life;

- Strengthened participation and involvement of civil society in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of decisions determining the functioning and well-being of societies;

71. Governments should promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, bearing in mind the interdependent and mutually reinforcing relationship between democracy, development and respect for human rights, and should make public institutions more responsive to people's needs by:

(a) Ensuring that decisions are based on accurate data and are taken with the participation of those who will be affected, keeping under review, within each country's constitutional framework, the responsibilities of the different levels of government and the administrative arrangements for organizing and delivering services;

(d) Opening channels and promoting full confidence between citizens and government agencies, and developing affordable recourse procedures accessible to all people, especially those who have no access to channels and agencies of communication to seek redress of grievances;

Beijing Declaration

13. Women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society, including participation in the decision-making process and access to power, are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace;

16. Eradication of poverty based on sustained economic growth, social development, environmental protection and social justice requires the involvement of women in economic and social development, equal opportunities and the full and equal participation of women and men as agents and beneficiaries of people-centred sustainable development;

36. The success of the Platform for Action will ... require ... a commitment to equal rights, equal responsibilities and equal opportunities and to the equal participation of women and men in all national, regional and international bodies and policy-making processes; the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms at all levels for accountability to the world's women;

Strategic objective F.1.

Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment and appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources

Actions to be taken

165. By Governments:

(d) Devise mechanisms and take positive action to enable women to gain access to full and equal participation in the formulation of policies and definition of structures through such bodies as ministries of finance and trade, national economic commissions, economic research institutes and other key agencies, as well as through their participation in appropriate international bodies;

(m) Establish mechanisms and other forums to enable women entrepreneurs and women

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workers to contribute to the formulation of policies and programmes being developed by economic ministries and financial institutions;

Strategic objective F.2.

Facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade

Actions to be taken

167. By Governments, central banks and national development banks, and private banking institutions, as appropriate:

(a) Increase the participation of women, including women entrepreneurs, in advisory boards and other forums to enable women entrepreneurs from all sectors and their organizations to contribute to the formulation and review of policies and programmes being developed by economic ministries and banking institutions;

249. Women remain largely absent at all levels of policy formulation and decision-making in natural resource and environmental management, conservation, protection and rehabilitation, and their experience and skills ... too often remain marginalized in policy-making and decision-making bodies.... Often women are not equal participants in the management of financial and corporate institutions whose decision-making most significantly affects environmental quality....

251. The strategic actions needed for sound environmental management require a holistic, multidisciplinary and intersectoral approach. Women's participation and leadership are essential to every aspect of that approach.... Sustainable development will be an elusive goal unless women's contribution to environmental management is recognized and supported.

Strategic objective K.1.

Involve women actively in environmental decision-making at all levels

Actions to be taken

253. By Governments, at all levels, including municipal authorities, as appropriate:

(a) Ensure opportunities for women, including indigenous women, to participate in environmental decision-making at all levels, including as managers, designers and planners, and as implementers and evaluators of environmental projects;

Strategic objective K.2.

Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development

Actions to be taken

256. By Governments:

(a) Integrate women, including indigenous women, their perspectives and knowledge, on an equal basis with men, in decision-making regarding sustainable resource management and the development of policies and programmes for sustainable development, including in particular those designed to address and prevent environmental degradation of the land....

Istanbul Declaration

7. As human beings are at the centre of our concern for sustainable development, they are the basis for our actions as in implementing the Habitat Agenda.... We shall ... ensure the full and equal participation of all women and men, and the effective participation of youth, in political, economic and social life....

12. We adopt the enabling strategy and the principles of partnership and participation as the most democratic and effective approach for the realization of our commitments.... We shall ... increase our cooperation with parliamentarians, the private sector, labour unions and non-governmental and other civil society organizations.... We shall also enhance the role of women and encourage socially and environmentally responsible corporate investment by the private sector.... The enabling strategy includes a responsibility for Governments to implement special measures for members of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups....

The Habitat Agenda

15. Women have an important role to play in the attainment of sustainable human settlements. ... The empowerment of women and their full and equal participation in political, social and economic life, the improvement of health and the eradication of poverty are essential to achieving sustainable human settlements.

18. ... Enabling structures that facilitate independent initiative and creativity, and that encourage a wide range of partnerships, including partnership with the private sector, and within and between countries, should be promoted. Furthermore, empowering all people, especially those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, in particular people living in poverty, to participate equally and effectively in all activities related to human settlements is the basis for civic engagement and should be facilitated by national authorities....

27. Equitable human settlements are those in which all people, without discrimination of any kind ... have ... equal opportunity for participation in public decision-making.... The empowerment of women and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society ... are fundamental to sustainable human settlements development.

32. ... Sustainable human settlements are those that, inter alia, generate a sense of citizenship and identity, cooperation and dialogue for the common good, ... where all people are encouraged and have an equal opportunity to participate in decision-making and development. Governments ... have a responsibility to ensure access to education and to protect their population's health, safety and general welfare. This requires ... facilitating community groups' participation, adopting transparent procedures, encouraging public-spirited leadership and public-private partnerships, and helping people to understand and exercise their rights and responsibilities through open and effective participatory processes, universal education and information dissemination.

33. Partnerships among countries and among all actors within countries from public, private, voluntary and community-based organizations, the cooperative sector, non-governmental organizations and individuals are essential to the achievement of sustainable human settlements development and the provision of adequate shelter for all and basic services.... Every effort must be made to encourage the collaboration and partnership of all sectors of society and among all actors in decision-making processes....

PARTICIPATION IN POWER AND DECISION-MAKING

44. We commit ourselves to the strategy of enabling all key actors in the public, private and community sectors to play an effective role ... in human settlements and shelter development.

45. We further commit ourselves to the objectives of:

(a) Enabling local leadership, promoting democratic rule, exercising public authority and using public resources in all public institutions at all levels in a manner that is conducive to ensuring transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance...;

...

(h) Institutionalizing a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements development and management, based on a continuing dialogue among all actors involved in urban development (the public sector, the private sector and communities)....

Rome Declaration on World Food Security

We, the Heads of State and Government, ... reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger....

Within the global framework, governments should ... cooperate actively with one another and with United Nations organizations, financial institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and public and private sectors, on programmes directed toward the achievement of food security for all.

We ... we will ensure an enabling political, social, and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty..., based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security....

World Food Summit Plan of Action

3. ... Governments are responsible for creating an enabling environment for private and group initiatives to devote their skills, efforts and resources, and in particular investment, towards the common goal of food for all. This should be undertaken with the cooperation and participation of all members of society. Farmers, fishers and foresters and other food producers and providers, have critical roles in achieving food security, and their full involvement and enablement are crucial for success.

Commitment 1

We will ensure an enabling political, social, and economic environment designed to create the best conditions for the eradication of poverty..., based on full and equal participation of women and men, which is most conducive to achieving sustainable food security....

14. Objective 1.1: To ... create a stable political environment, through respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, a transparent and effective legal framework, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all public and private national and international institutions, and effective and equal participation of all people, at all levels, in decisions and actions that affect their food security.

To this end, governments, in partnership, as appropriate, with all actors of civil society, will ...:

PARTICIPATION IN POWER AND DECISION-MAKING

...

(b) Develop policy making, legislative and implementation processes that are democratic, transparent, participatory, empowering, responsive to changing circumstances and most conducive to achieving sustainable food security for all;

...

(d) Recognize and support indigenous people and their communities in their pursuit of economic and social development, with full respect for their identity, traditions, forms of social organization and cultural values.

16. Objective 1.3: To ensure gender equality and empowerment of women.

To this end, governments will:

...

(b) Promote women's full and equal participation in the economy, and for this purpose introduce and enforce gender-sensitive legislation providing women with secure and equal access to and control over productive resources including credit, land and water;

Commitment 7

We will implement, monitor, and follow-up this Plan of Action at all levels in cooperation with the international community.

56. Governments have the primary responsibility for creating an economic and political environment that assures the food security of their citizens, involving for this purpose all elements of civil society. The international community, and the UN system, including FAO, as well as other agencies and bodies ..., have important contributions to offer to the goal of food security for all.

62. Objective 7.5: To share responsibilities in achieving food security for all so that implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action takes place at the lowest possible level at which its purpose could be best achieved.

In implementing this Plan of Action, it is recognized that:

(a) Individuals and households have a key role in decisions and actions affecting their food security. They must be enabled and encouraged to participate actively, both individually and also collectively, through producers, consumers and other organizations of civil society....

Ensuring Corporate Accountability: Governments' Commitments

Agenda 21

30.1. Business and industry, including transnational corporations, play a crucial role in the social and economic development of a country. A stable policy regime enables and encourages business and industry to operate responsibly and efficiently and to implement longer-term policies. Increasing prosperity, a major goal of the development process, is contributed primarily by the activities of business and industry. Business enterprises, large and small, formal and informal, provide major trading, employment and livelihood opportunities. Business opportunities available to women are contributing towards their professional development, strengthening their economic role and transforming social systems. Business and industry, including transnational corporations, and their representative organizations should be full participants in the implementation and evaluation of activities related to Agenda 21.

30.2. Through more efficient production processes, preventive strategies, cleaner production technologies and procedures throughout the product life cycle, hence minimizing or avoiding wastes, the policies and operations of business and industry, including transnational corporations, can play a major role in reducing impacts on resource use and the environment. Technological innovations, development, applications, transfer and the more comprehensive aspects of partnership and cooperation are to a very large extent within the province of business and industry.

30.3. Business and industry, including transnational corporations, should recognize environmental management as among the highest corporate priorities and as a key determinant to sustainable development.... A positive contribution of business and industry, including transnational corporations, to sustainable development can increasingly be achieved by using economic instruments such as free market mechanisms in which the prices of goods and services should increasingly reflect the environmental costs of their input, production, use, recycling and disposal subject to country-specific conditions.

Objectives

30.6. Governments, business and industry, including transnational corporations, should aim to increase the efficiency of resource utilization, including increasing the reuse and recycling of residues, and to reduce the quantity of waste discharge per unit of economic output.

Activities

30.7. Governments, business and industry, including transnational corporations, should strengthen partnerships to implement the principles and criteria for sustainable development.

30.8. Governments should identify and implement an appropriate mix of economic instruments and normative measures such as laws, legislations and standards, in consultation with business and industry, including transnational corporations, that will promote the use of cleaner production....

30.17. Entrepreneurship is one of the most important driving forces for innovations, increasing market efficiencies and responding to challenges and opportunities.... Responsible

entrepreneurship can play a major role in improving the efficiency of resource use, reducing risks and hazards, minimizing wastes and safeguarding environmental qualities.

30.18. The following objectives are proposed:

(a) To encourage the concept of stewardship in the management and utilization of natural resources by entrepreneurs;

(b) To increase the number of entrepreneurs engaged in enterprises that subscribe to and implement sustainable development policies.

30.19. Governments should encourage the establishment and operations of sustainably managed enterprises. The mix would include regulatory measures, economic incentives and streamlining of administrative procedures to assure maximum efficiency in dealing with applications for approval in order to facilitate investment decisions, advice and assistance with information, infrastructural support and stewardship responsibilities.

30.20. Governments should encourage, in cooperation with the private sector, the establishment of venture capital funds for sustainable development projects and programmes.

30.22. Business and industry, including transnational corporations, should be encouraged to establish world-wide corporate policies on sustainable development, arrange for environmentally sound technologies to be available to affiliates owned substantially by their parent company in developing countries without extra external charges, encourage overseas affiliates to modify procedures in order to reflect local ecological conditions and share experiences with local authorities, national Governments and international organizations.

30.24. Business and industry should establish national councils for sustainable development and help promote entrepreneurship in the formal and informal sectors. The inclusion of women entrepreneurs should be facilitated.

30.25. Business and industry, including transnational corporations, should increase research and development of environmentally sound technologies and environmental management systems, in collaboration with academia and the scientific/engineering establishments, drawing upon indigenous knowledge, where appropriate.

30.26. Business and industry, including transnational corporations, should ensure responsible and ethical management of products and processes from the point of view of health, safety and environmental aspects. Towards this end, business and industry should increase self-regulation, guided by appropriate codes, charters and initiatives integrated into all elements of business planning and decision-making, and fostering openness and dialogue....

30.27. Multilateral and bilateral financial aid institutions should continue to encourage and support small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs engaged in sustainable development activities.

30.28. United Nations organizations and agencies should improve mechanisms for business and industry inputs, policy and strategy formulation processes, to ensure that environmental aspects are strengthened in foreign investment.

Beijing Platform for Action

Strategic objective F.1.

Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment and appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources

Actions to be taken

165. By Governments:

...

(l) Ensure that all corporations, including transnational corporations, comply with national laws and codes, social security regulations, applicable international agreements, instruments and conventions, including those related to the environment, and other relevant laws;

Strategic objective F.4.

Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks

Actions to be taken

177. By the private sector, including transnational and national corporations:

(c) Observe national labour, environment, consumer, health and safety laws, particularly those that affect women....

Istanbul Declaration

12. We adopt the enabling strategy and the principles of partnership and participation as the most democratic and effective approach for the realization of our commitments.... We shall ... increase our cooperation with parliamentarians, the private sector, labour unions and non-governmental and other civil society organizations.... We shall also... encourage socially and environmentally responsible corporate investment by the private sector....

Habitat Agenda

48. We ... commit ourselves to the objectives of:

...

(d) Strengthening regulatory and legal frameworks to enable markets to work, overcome market failure and facilitate independent initiative and creativity, as well as to promote socially and environmentally responsible corporate investment and reinvestment in, and in partnership with, local communities and to encourage a wide range of other partnerships to finance shelter and human settlements development....

Eight Things You Can Do to Promote Human Rights!

- Get to know your human rights. Look up the universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights agreements at your local library, or search the Internet for the documents.
- Use the human rights framework and language-to describe, defend or define your social justice issues. Remember, we can all be “ambassadors” for each others' issues!
- Become a Human Rights Educator and monitor. Reach -out and share learning with others working for economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights.
- Put human rights language to work for social justice. The issues affecting you and your community are human rights issues. Help hold your national, regional, and local governments accountable to human rights norms and standards.
- Be heard! Always put human rights on the agenda at conferences, in literature and at meetings. Human rights is not a single issue, but all our issues combined: indivisible and interconnected
- Find creative ways to communicate social justice issues in your community as human rights issues, such as media strategies, open hearings, telling stories, etc. Focus on the ways the global human rights movement is relevant to people in -your community.
- Join efforts to have your country's government ratify international human rights treaties.
- Join a local, national, or international social justice and human rights organizations that have made a commitment to the holistic vision of human rights.

Get involved!

Learn to integrate the human rights frame work in your struggle for justice.
--it is a sound ground to stand on!

This is a sample letter which can be amended to aid citizens' organisations efforts to bring human rights and international economic policy issues to the attention of their leaders*. (We suggest that you check what are the human rights conventions your country has ratified and replace it in the letter.)

***** PROPOSED SAMPLE LETTER *****

<Date>

His/ Her Excellency < Name >
Prime Minister of <Name of State>

Your Excellency,

We are writing this letter to bring your attention to the human rights implications of international trade and investment agreements currently being considered by your Government. We have resolved to develop strategies on this and related issues being considered by bodies such as the World Trade Organisation, OECD and others concerned with international trade and investment.

We are appealing to you because we are sure that you and your Government take your commitments to environmental protection and respect for human rights seriously.

We would like to draw your attention to the potential threat to human rights and the environment posed by certain WTO agreements and other international and investment agreements. We believe there are at least five human rights and environment issues threatened by inconsistencies in the multilateral trade and investment system - as exemplified in the ill-conceived draft OECD MAI

1. Multilateral human rights and environmental treaties may be contradicted, or 'overridden' by international trade and investment agreements.
2. Measures to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of vulnerable groups may be challenged by the trade-investment concept of non-discrimination.
3. The human right to self determination includes the right of all peoples to determine their economic future, which may be impossible when freedom without responsibility is given to foreign multinational corporations and investors.
4. The human right to sustainable livelihoods (to include the human rights to work, adequate housing, food education, and health) and collective survival rights (such as the human rights to development and healthy environment) may be jeopardized by the economic priorities required by trade policy.
5. Stipulated conditions favouring foreign investors may eliminate the possibility of human rights and environmental accountability of non state actors, specifically multinational enterprises.

< Country Name > is a signatory to several human rights conventions such as: the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the International Covenant on Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Convention on the Rights of Children. As State Party to these human rights treaties, we believe <Country Name> can be counted on to ensure that agreements reached at the WTO and similar bodies do not contravene your Government's obligations under international human rights treaties.

We, therefore, respectfully urge your Excellency to instruct your representatives at current and future WTO negotiations and meetings, to ensure that all discussions, negotiations and decisions reached are fully in compliance with, and do not threaten to undermine, the solemn obligations your Government has incurred by ratifying human rights treaties.

We also hope that your representatives will, in all fora where international trade and investment agreements are discussed, take into account <Country Name> commitments and obligations to respect all human rights - economic, social, cultural, civil and political - and the commitments your country has made at various world summits, from Rio to Rome.

The commitment to sustainable development and the progressive realisation of human rights should be the guiding principles of all national and international economic policy. This has been reiterated in various institutions. For example, in the Preamble to the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization and in the foreword by Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to the UNDP policy document, *Integrating Human Rights with Sustainable Human Development*, where she states: "achieving sustainable progress requires recognizing the interdependence between respect for human rights, sustainable development and democracy." Even the OECD High-Level Advisory group on working procedures, methodologies and strategic objectives to the MAI negotiations has recommended addressing comprehensively the "inseparable" social and human dimension of sustainable development. It is also recognised that, flagrant human rights violations, and market environments that foster systematic human rights violations, often pose severe liability risks, business risks, and reputational risks for corporations.

We will be contacting your delegation to the WTO and officials, so as to begin a fruitful dialogue and eventually establish cooperation between <Country Name> and the NGO advocates of human rights for the purpose of promoting our mutual interests, highlighting <Country Name> commitment and obligations to human rights.

Copies of this letter are being sent to both the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Trade as well as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely Yours,

<Signature>

<Organisation name and address>

CC. Minister of Foreign Affairs

CC. Minister for Trade

CC. Office of the Commissioner of Human Rights

*An original version of this letter, protesting developments on the draft OECD MAI, was sent to all heads of state and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of UN Member States - by INCHRITI - on July 20, 1998.

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